

AFROCAB

CLIMATE CHANGE SUBMISSION

Our submission relates mainly to Points 3, 8 and 10 of the ‘Summit paper’.

3: Pursuing cost effective emissions reductions in the Victorian economy.

In our submission we are advocating that the government should introduce a reform which will reduce Victoria’s CO2 emissions by tens of thousands of tonnes per year.

In 2007, the Report of the Stakeholders Investigation into a best practice Container Deposit System for Western Australian was released. Among other things it found that a CDS system would reduce Western Australia’s CO2 emissions by **‘tens of thousands of tonnes’*** per year.

We believe this is a **compelling reason** why the State Government should introduce a deposit system on cans and bottles **as part of its response to climate change**.

Alternatively, **it should** actively lobby the Federal Government to fast track the introduction of a national container deposit system.

A container deposit system in Victoria would also have other environmental benefits. (See below) Also, as shown by the South Australian experience it would not undermine kerbside recycling.

Instead, as shown in the WA Stakeholders Investigation it would actually be **‘complimentary to and supportive of the existing kerbside system’**. Also, as in South Australia, a deposit system would become an important source of fundraising for community groups.

For all these reasons, we urge the State Government to introduce a container deposit system **as part of a comprehensive plan** to reduce Victoria’s greenhouse gas emissions.

8: Assist our natural assets and ecosystems to deal with the pressures and challenges that climate change will bring.

The ecosystem that drink container litter impacts on most are our waterways. Over **3 billion** drink containers are **not recycled** every year. They either go into landfill or are washed down drains into our waterways. This is a **cumulative impact**. Millions more cans and bottles are added every year.

Container Deposit Systems significantly increase recycling rates. (See examples below)* This means, that every year, **millions less** drink containers disappear into our environment. Waterways are already being heavily impacted by droughts and climate change. Reducing drink containers as litter in waterways will help reduce this unnecessary additional pressure on our waterways.

10. Ensuring Victoria continues to play a proactive role in global efforts to address climate change.

Governments should do everything possible to reduce Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions. Introducing a container deposit system is one way to do this. Doing this would provide leadership to the other states as well as other countries around the world.

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- * The Stakeholders Advisory Group Report can be found at www.zerowastewa.com.au/ourwork/specificprograms
- *[35% of PET bottles are recycled nationally. 74% are recycled in South Australia. 65% of aluminium cans are recycled nationally. 80% are recycled in SA. 40% of glass bottles are recycled nationally. 84% are recycled in SA]